

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/709,306
Docket No.: 12952-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-16 remain pending. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 14-16 are in proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 103

1. The Office Action rejected Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admission (hereinafter AAPA) and of Song et al. (US-6,215,541, hereinafter Song) and of Baek et al. (US-6,524,876, hereinafter Baek) in view of Matsumoto (US-5,969,780, hereinafter Matsumoto).

In rejecting the above claims, the Examiner stated that AAPA, Song and Baek fail to disclose a size of the contact hole in a range of 20 um, however relied upon Matsumoto to disclose this feature. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the pixel structure of the AAPA, Song and Baek contact hole motivated by the desire to provide the reliability of the contacts between the pads and drivers (song, col. 1, row 47-48) to also include Matsumoto's contact hole size motivated by the desire to provide good electrical connection (col. 5, rows 35-46).

Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the above rejections as set forth below. Applicants respectfully submit the claimed invention specifies that contact holes in pixel structure are used for connecting the data line with the redundant data line,

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wherein a length of the contact holes is in a range of about 20um to about a length of the data line. Matsumoto substantially teaches a method for Selectively Connecting A PLURALITY OF ELECTRODES (1) formed on a plastic film substrate to an EXTERNAL CIRCUIT (7) through the electrode connecting holes (2) formed an insulating layer, and therefore it is clear that Matsumoto substantially fails to teach a method of connecting the data line and the redundant data line (or the scan line with the redundant scan line) via a contact hole having a size of about 20 um or to about the length of the data line in a PIXEL STRUCTURE, as required by the proposed independent Claims 1, 6 and 14. Instead, Matsumoto substantially teaches a method for selectively connecting arbitrary ones of A PLURALITY OF ELECTRODES formed on a plastic film substrate to an EXTERNAL CIRCUIT. Therefore, it is clear that Matsumoto substantially fails to teach contact hole(s) for electrically connecting the data line and the redundant data line (or the scan line with the redundant scan line), as specified by the amended proposed independent Claims 1, 6 and 14.

Furthermore, according to Matsumoto, because the dimensions of the plastic film substrate change greatly due to temperature and humidity changes, it is not possible to perform accurate alignment, and therefore Matsumoto proposes forming a contact hole 2 having a 20um on the electrode 1 (please see col. 5, lines 20-26). In other words, because the purpose of the contact hole(s) of AAPA, Song and Baek, and that of Matsumoto are different, and therefore Matsumoto cannot possibly suggest one skilled in the art to modify the contact holes of AAPA or Song or Baek, in a manner suggested by the Examiner.

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Therefore, the cited references AAPA, Song, Baek and Matsumoto, either alone or in combination, can not possibly render every features of the claimed invention as claimed in the amended proposed independent Claims 1, 6 and 14 obvious in this regard, and therefore the amended proposed independent Claims 1, 6 and 14 should be allowed.

Claims 2-6, 8-11 and 15-16, which directly or indirectly depend from the independent Claims 1, 6 and 14 respectively, are also patentable over AAPA, Song, Baek and Kano at least because of their dependency from an allowable base claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 14-16 patentably define over AAPA, Song, Baek and Kano. Reconsideration and withdrawal of above rejections is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 14-16 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

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Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Lee
Belinda Lee

Registration No.: 46,863

Jianq Chyun Intellectual Property Office
7th Floor-1, No. 100
Roosevelt Road, Section 2
Taipei, 100
Taiwan
Tel: 011-886-2-2369-2800
Fax: 011-886-2-2369-7233
Email: belinda@jicpgroup.com.tw ; usa@jicpgroup.com.tw